

WE CLAIM AS OUR INVENTION:

1. A device for offering information, comprising:
a display device with an associated operating unit;
a data store containing information to be offered;
a network allowing a connection to be set up between the display device with the associated operating unit and said data store, via which said information is transmitted from said data store to said display device with the associated operating unit; and

said display device with the associated operating unit being programmed, in response to actuation of said operating unit, to display said information at said display device as a plurality of different information types respectively designated by respective different symbols, with at least one of said information types having a evaluation allocated thereto, and said display device with the associated operating unit further being programmed to display a discriminator at said display device allocated to at least one of the displayed symbols, said discriminator providing a visual indication of the evaluation allocated to the information type designated by said at least one of said symbols.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to display said information type by activating, via said operating unit, the symbol designating that information type.

3. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein, for at least one of said symbols, the information type designated by said at least one of said symbols is selected from the group consisting of tables, diagrams, texts, images, sound and video sequences.

4. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein, for at least one of said symbols, the information type designated by said at least one of said symbols comprises a plurality of information elements, and wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to display a plurality of sub-symbols, respectively designating said information elements.

5. A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein said sub-symbols have a hierarchic structure.

6. A device as claimed in claim 5 wherein at least one of said information elements has a evaluation allocated thereto, and wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to display a discriminator allocated to the respective sub-symbol designating said at least one information element with said evaluation, said discriminator indicating the evaluation allocated to said at least one information element.

7. A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the respective information elements have informational content, and wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to display the informational content allocated to a respective information element by activating, via said operating unit, the respective sub-symbol designating that information element.

8. A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein said informational elements have respective informational contents associated therewith, said informational contents being selected from the group consisting of tables, diagrams, texts, images, sounds and video sequences.

9. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to automatically weight at least one of said information type and said information element dependent on a quantitative analysis.

10. A device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to make a quantitative analysis dependent on a threshold entered via said operating unit.

11. A device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to make a quantitative analysis dependent on a reference trend curve entered via said operating unit.

12. A device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit allows a user-entered allocation of said evaluation to at least one of said information type and said information element, as an evaluation class selected from a number of predefined evaluation classes.

13. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit displays said discriminator with a visual indicator of said evaluation selected from the group consisting of color, shape, image, pictogram, scale and alphanumeric characters.

14. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said offerable information has an address indicating a storage location of said offerable information in said data store, and wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to display an identification of said address and to allow editing thereof.

15. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said information types has an informational content associated therewith, and wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to allow updating of the informational content

of an information type by activating the respective symbol designating that information type.

16. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said offerable information is a datafile selected from the group consisting of standard software datafiles and office software datafiles.

17. A device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to open said datafile upon activation, via said operating unit of the respective symbol designating that information type.

18. A device as claimed in claim 17 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit displays said datafile after said datafile is opened.

19. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is a personal computer.

20. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to allow said offerable information to be supplied thereto from said data store only in response to an entry via said operating unit by an authorized user.

21. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said display device with the associated operating unit is programmed to allow entries to be made, via said operating unit, to augment said offerable information in said data store.

22. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said network is the worldwide web.

23. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data store is a data store in which business data are stored as said offerable information.

24. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data store is a data store wherein management information is stored as said offerable information.